## Reducing engine idling

Reducing engine idling will improve our air quality, reduce our carbon footprint, protect our health and save money.

- Vehicle emissions are the leading source of toxic air pollution in Minnesota.<sup>1</sup> Burning gasoline and diesel in our cars and trucks releases:
  - particulate matter.
  - dirt,
  - nitrous oxides,
  - hydrocarbons such as formaldehyde and benzene, and
  - carbon monoxide.
- Vehicle emissions are a major source of carbon dioxide contributing to **global** warming.<sup>2</sup> About of third of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States come from vehicle emissions.
- Vehicle exhaust is **hazardous to human health**, especially children's.<sup>3</sup> Studies have linked air pollution to increased rates of cancer, heart and lung disease, asthma and allergies.
- Idling is unnecessary.4 Fuel injection engines do not need to be warmed up for more than 30 seconds except on extremely cold days (below 0° F).
- Idling is hard on your engine.<sup>4</sup> An idling engine does not run at peak efficiency, which results in incomplete combustion of fuel, residue on spark plugs and dirty engine oil.
- Idling is **expensive**.<sup>2</sup>
  - An average car burns close to a gallon of gas for every hour spent idling.
  - All vehicles get zero miles per gallon while idling.
  - In general, 10 seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting the car.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
<sup>2</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<sup>3</sup> National Institute of Environmental Health Services

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Energy